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ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FIFTH CONFERENCE

Report of Sweden

Paper submitted by Sweden**

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1. National Geographical Names Authority

The National Land Survey (NLS) has been the Geographical Names Authority in Sweden since 1974. The Place Names Advisory Board was created in 1985 (see below).

Some other governmental organizations are involved in the standardization of specific groups of geographical names. The Swedish Government, for example, approves names of communities and Railway Inspectorate of Sweden names of railway stations.

2. The Swedish Place Names Advisory Board

The Place Names Advisory Board (PNAB, Sw. Ortnamnsrådet), formed in 1985 and administered by the NLS, has met several times a year during the period in question. The board is no authority in itself and makes no formal decisions. Its role is rather to lay down principles regarding the standardization of geographical names and to disseminate information about this work.

The board and its members can do this in various ways, e.g. by writing statements, participating in conferences or writing papers. Thus, members of the board have contributed to some of the literature mentioned in this report.

The PNAB also deals with formal place name matters. Among such issues are questions on Finnish and Saami place names in Sweden, names for postal purposes, on road signs and names in the real estate register.

3. Reduction of the number of exonyms

The use of exonyms in cartography has been reduced. Swedish map publishers and the NLS are following the resolutions of the UN Conferences.

There are different opinions among teachers in geography, linguists and the media about reducing exonyms in cartography and other different media. Discussions in geographical and linguistic reviews show that old exonyms - as far as Sweden is concerned, mostly the original German exonyms - have taken a strong root and become part of the public consciousness.

4. Romanization systems

The pinyin system for Chinese is normally accepted in both cartography and other media. The situation for Cyrillic is a little more complicated. The common Nordic romanization system is mostly used in newspapers and literature but not always in cartography. For example, Russian names in maps and text in the new Swedish National Encyclopaedia, where the editors have adapted a modified version of the Nordic romanization system. For text and maps in all other languages the same romanization systems are used as in Encyclopaedia Brittanica.

5. Toponymic Guidelines

Sweden published a Toponymic Guidelines in 1983 but as much has changed especially regarding standardization of geographical names in multilingual areas, it is planned to be revised.

6. Multilingual areas

6.1 Saami names

In 1988 the NLS decided to introduce the Lule-Saami orthography in official maps in accordance with the UN recommendations from 1972. The decision from 1983 about North-Saami orthography has been accomplished in the so called "Mountain Map" and other official maps. The Lule-Saami orthography does not include as many diacritics as the North-saami, only á and the phonetic sign for the /ng/-sound.

In the Lule-Saami area there are Saami names not only on the maps but also in the real estate register. The latter will be dealt with in the following way. A computerization of the real estate registers is going on in Sweden, where all names concerned are verified. In connection with this reform the Saami names in the register will be accounted for with old as well as new Lule-Saami orthography, the latter as additional information for each Saami name.

On the maps both orthographies will be used for the corresponding settlement names, but when designating real estate properties the names will be spelt according to the old orthography. This solution has been settled by the NLS after having consulted Saami representatives as well as other parties concerned.

The two separate decisions about Saami orthographies have caused some problems about borderlines between North- and Lule-Saami and Lule- and South-Saami. The following map will show how the borderline is drawn today. The borderline farther north is the result of a Swedish Government decision which says that the area will include names in both North- and Lule-Saami orthography.

6.2 Finnish names

Finnish is spoken in the north-east of Sweden, in the so called Tornedalen (Torne Valley) close to the Finnish border. In this area some of the Finnish place names are spelt according to Finnish orthography and other names are adapted to the rules of the Torne Valley Finnish. A third category are names of Finnish origin that have been slightly influenced by Swedish since the 16th and 17th century and therefore have an incorrect Finnish spelling. This group consists mostly of village names. All three variations can be found on the maps of northern Sweden. In some cases there are two names on the maps, the official and a variant name.

6.3 Finnish names in central Sweden

Finnish names are also found in central Sweden, mainly in the forests of the provinces of Värmland (close to the Norwegian border) and Dalarna (Dalecarlia). Groups of Finns settled here in the 17th and 18th century and Finnish was spoken until the 20th century. Today no Finnish is spoken in those areas; the place names and the building tradition are the only monuments of this immigration. (Finland was actually a part of Sweden at that time, so it is not correct to call it immigration.)

The geographical names in these areas are in many cases adapted to Swedish today and they have been standardized in accordance to Swedish spelling rules. But as they are looked upon as cultural linguistic monuments, there have been proposals for new spelling of the names, more in accordance with their Finnish origin. The NLS has taken the proposals into consideration and decided to restandardize the Finnish names. A new spelling system with for example Finnish /kk/ instead of Swedish /ck/ for double k is taken into practical use.

6. List of country names

The Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs has just published a list of country names in Swedish. The main purpose of the list is to be an internal guideline.

8. Publications

A manual for local politicians and officials dealing with names in the municipalities (e.g. street names) appeared in 1989. The book was published by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and written in co-operation with members of the PNAB. It is called "Place Names. Name designation and name usage in the municipalities (Sw. Ortnamn. Namngivning och namnskick i kommunerna.).

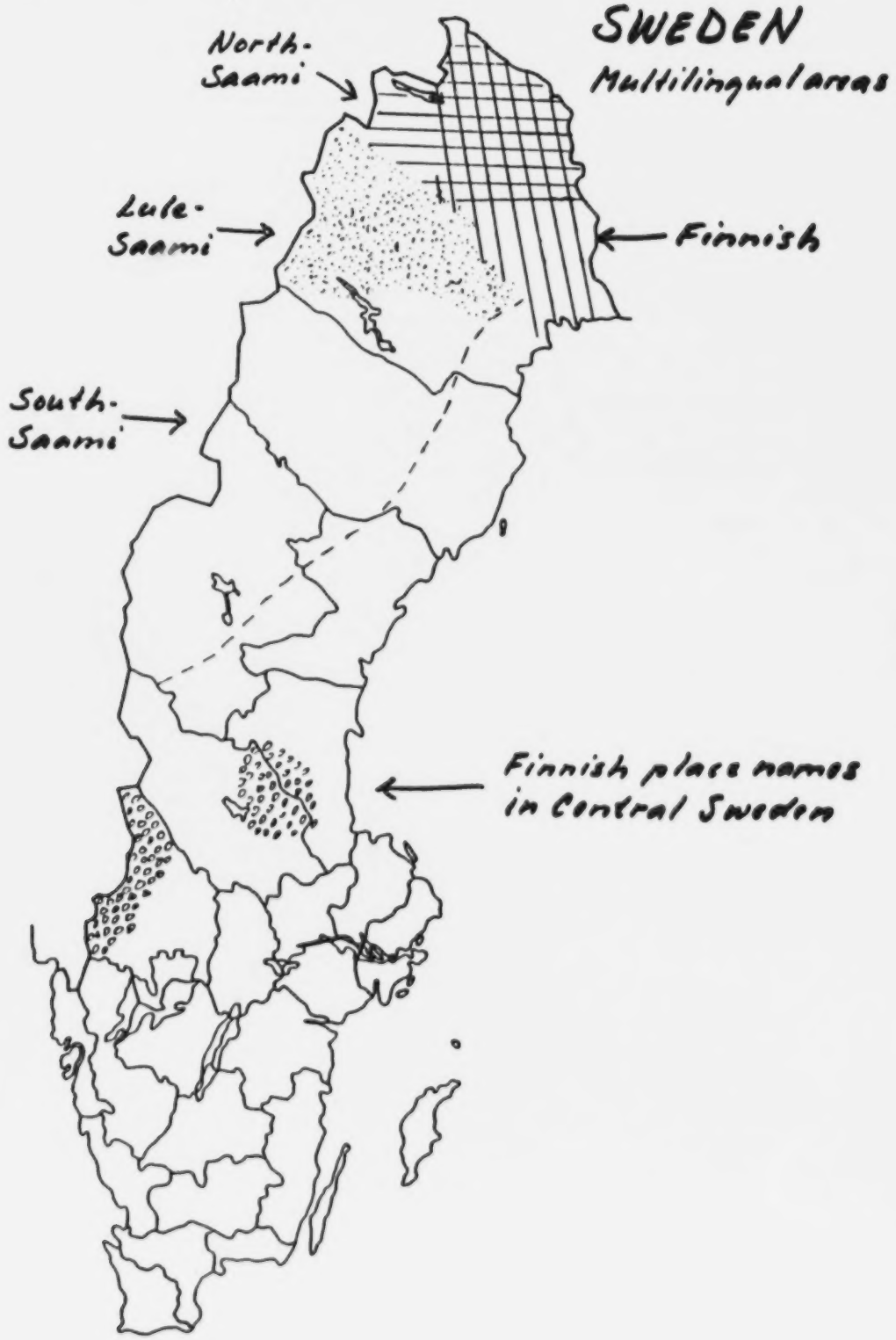
In 1991 a small gazetteer called Swedish geographical names - pronunciation and spelling (Sw. Svenska ortnamn - uttal och

stavning) was published by the NLS of Sweden and the Swedish Language Committee. The book contains some 3 000 names of Swedish, Finnish and Saami origin. The main purpose of the book is to provide recommendations for pronouncing and spelling names in Sweden. The ordinary user is regarded as a teacher, journalist or just an interested Swede.

In 1992 the NLS published the first number in a series about geographical names and the preservation of names (Sw. Ortnamn och namnvård). It is intended to deal with various matters concerning the standardization of names. Number 1 is called "Place names and the formation and registration of real estates (Sw. Ortnamn, fastighetsbildning och fastighetsregistrering). It draws attention to the role that place names play in various cadastral survey procedures.

9. Toponymic Data Bases

See separate report.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